

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, IN REPLY TO PRESS QUERY ON
HIS REACTION TO THE SPEECH OF VICE-PRESIDENT
BARKLEY AT THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY
DINNER, COLUMBIA, S.C., FRIDAY, JULY 1, 1949.

The Democrats of South Carolina agree with Mr. Barkley with reference to the greatness of the Democratic Party under the leadership of Jefferson, Jackson, Wilson and Roosevelt. No other state or section of the country supported the Democratic Party under their leadership more loyally than did South Carolina and the South.

Because the party at its 1948 National Convention, deserted the principles and teachings of these great presidents by advocating the so-called Civil Rights Program, the Democrats of South Carolina repudiated the National leadership of our party last November. No democratic leader or administration prior to Mr. Truman, advocated a program to destroy the constitutional rights of the states to control their own internal affairs.

Mr. Barkley in his Columbia speech did not defend or even discuss the so-called Civil Rights Program; neither did he explain why he made his famous ruling to apply gag rule to enact these unconstitutional and objectionable force bills upon the South.

If Mr. Barkley had given South Carolina some assurance that he and the President would drop their fight to have the Federal Government usurp from the states their police power, their right to fix the qualifications for voters, their right to control their courts, and their right to separate the races for the benefit of both races, then he would have made a contribution to restoring harmony to the Democratic Party.

The Democratic Party of South Carolina has voiced the feeling and conviction of the people of South Carolina with reference to Truman-Barkley Civil Rights Program and no amount of pressure and intimidation from Washington, or even the setting up of a rump National Democratic Party in the State, will cause the real democrats of South Carolina to desert the principles for which they voted last November.